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Editorial

Preface to the TIFS Special Issue on the 1st International Conference on Food Bioactives and Health



The 1st International Conference on Food Bioactives and Health (www.fbhc2016.com) was organised by the Institute of Food Research (now the Quadram Institute Bioscience) and held in Norwich, UK from 13 to 15 September 2016. The overall aim of the conference was to bring together people with interests in different types of food bioactives from various scientific communities in order to discuss common themes and challenges to understanding the impacts of food bioactives on human health. Uniquely, the conference attracted significant numbers of delegates from what traditionally had remained quite distinct scientific communities, such as polyphenols, carotenoids, glucosinolates, lipids/fatty acids and bioactive peptides. Two hundred and sixty-nine delegates from all over the world participated in discussions of the latest research, ideas and innovations and the direction of future research. The conference included 20 plenary lectures from eminent scientists, 40 oral presentations, and over 180 posters presented across six major themes:

- Latest evidence of the beneficial effects of food bioactives in humans
- Bioavailability and metabolism
- Inter-individual variation in response to food bioactives
- Mechanisms of action
- Functional foods and health claims
- Bioactive intakes and exposure, novel sources.

As part of the conference, the EU COST Action POSITIVE (Interindividual variation in response to consumption of plant food bioactives and determinants involved <http://www6.inra.fr/cost-positive>) held its 2nd Scientific Workshop which was built into the programme as Theme 3 (Interindividual variation in response to food bioactives). This is an emerging topic that is important for all types of food bioactives, is closely connected with the personalised nutrition agenda, and progress in this area will support better designs and outcomes of future studies of the health impact of food bioactives and the development of novel functional foods and the refinement of dietary advice.

One of the themes of the conference focussed on health claims and functional foods, and examples of health claim procedures in different countries were presented. This topic included various oral and poster presentations arising from the EU FP7-BACCHUS project (Cardiovascular benefits from food bioactives; <http://www.bacchus-fp7.eu/>) which supported the conference and made a significant contribution to its success.

Speakers who gave plenary lectures at the conference were invited to submit articles for inclusion in a Special Issue of the *Trends in Food Science and Technology* journal. Review articles and Commentaries were submitted and went through the usual TIFS peer-review process, and these make up this Special Issue.

We sincerely thank all the authors and the reviewers for their commitment and endeavour in assisting with producing this special issue, and we hope that it makes a positive and lasting contribution to the literature in the field.

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